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14 August 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comments on DIA Proposal to Relieve NPIC Workload

REFERENCE : Memo for DCI from Director, DIA, Dated 5 August 1970; Subject: Proposal to Relieve NPIC Workload

1. We have reviewed the DIA proposal to relieve NPIC workload and offer the following comments for your consideration:

a. We too are concerned about the anticipated workload from [ ] and we have been busy for several years in detailed planning for it.

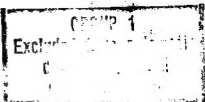
b. No one knows for sure what that impact will be. A number of studies have been made and are underway to more definitively assess the magnitude of the impact.

c. NPIC plans to fulfill its responsibilities for first and second phase reporting with about its same level of resources.

d. Our budgetary resources are geared to strengthening our capabilities by introducing new equipment and technology, by increasing our numerical strength of our photo interpreters, by reorganizing our PI work assignments, and by other measures.

e. We believe the intelligence community must re-examine its requirements for the volume and timeliness of national PI reporting. We are currently in the process of developing a proposal for COMIREX which would replace our current mission, bucket and target oriented reporting system with a more flexible pattern of reporting.

Declass Review by NGA

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f. The assignment of responsibility for preliminary readout of the KH products to a single nationally oriented PI component has distinct advantages to the intelligence community and we feel should not be tampered with. Having a single authoritative source in the Washington area which provides first look information and which is responsive to reporting on subjects of prime national concern is the best way to expeditiously and economically meet the needs of our national planners. These national concerns sometimes conflict and compete with departmental needs, but should not be confused with them.

g. The intelligence community should focus its attention on limiting its requirements for first and second phase reporting to those items of prime concern. NPIC can fulfill its responsibilities if the intelligence community can gear its needs to the most meaningful areas of concern.

h. SAC's requirements as well as the requirements of other departmental components are certainly important to the fulfillment of their missions. Their departmental PI readout must be geared to their organizational needs but they should not rely on national labels to defend themselves from budgetary cuts.

i. Within the PI community, there is a great deal of concurrent effort upon the arrival of a KH mission. The advent of [redacted] provides a fresh opportunity for the community to re-examine their procedures, cut back on existing duplication and seek more reliance on the work of others.

2. The [redacted] letter on the face of it should be looked at as an expression of concern of how we can cope with the expected volume and quantity of [redacted] photography. It is clear to us that the

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development of [redacted] dictate a change in long standing procedures. Fragmenting existing responsibilities or seeking additional resources to preserve the status quo is not the answer. We will have more definitive proposals for you and COMIREX in the very near future which we hope will lead us to a more concrete and palatable solution to the problem [redacted]

Captain, USN  
Acting Director  
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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